



TITLE:

MEDUSAN COLLECTION DEPOSITED IN THE IWA MARINE BIOLOGICAL STATION, THE MANAZURU PENINSULA

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MEDUSAN COLLECTION DEPOSITED IN THE IWA MARINE BIOLOGICAL STATION, THE MANAZURU PENINSULA

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The collection contains only medusae of rather large size, including 3 hydromedusae and 5 scyphomedusae as on the following list. They were examined by the writer during his sojourn in the summer of 1963.

Hydromedusae

- 1) *Aequorea coerulescens* BRANDT
- 2) *Scolionema suvaense* (AGASSIZ & MAYER)
- 3) *Olindias formosa* (GOTO)

Scyphomedusae

- 1) *Dactylometra pacifica* GOETTE
- 2) *Aurelia aurita* LINNÉ
- 3) *Phacellophora camtschatica* BRANDT
- 4) *Thysanostoma thysanura* HAECKEL
- 5) *Stomolophus nomurai* (KISHINOUE)

Aequorea coerulescens BRANDT

A specimen, caught on March 22, 1962, was examined. It is the common medusa in Japanese waters. The species is distinctly separated from the Atlantic species, *A. vitrina* by the morphology of young medusa and nematocysts (UCHIDA, 1968).

Scolionema suvaense (AGASSIZ & MAYER)

A few specimens obtained on July 11 are preserved. This medusa has been generally named as *Scolionema gemmifera* in Japan, because it proliferates by medusan budding. In 1938 the writer examined a few large specimens having gonads on the radial canals, collected at Tomioka, Kyushu. He suggested at that time the

synonymy of this species with *Gonionemus* (= *Scolionema*) *hornelli* and *G. suvaensis*, although he retained the name of *S. gemmifera*. PICARD (1951) reduced all species belonging to the genus *Scolionema* to the single species *S. suvaense* which is widely distributed in warm waters of the Indo-Pacific and the Atlantic. In Japan the medusa is common and generally is found in young stages, bearing medusa-buds in the portion of radial canals, which bears gonads in the adult.

Olindias formosa (GOTO)

Date of collection unknown. The species is rather common in the summer season on the Pacific coasts from the middle Japan to Kyushu. In the Japan Sea it is often found on the coast of Ishikawa Pref.

Dactylometra pacifica GOETTE

The medusa is widely distributed in Japanese waters, from Northern Hokkaido to the Loochoo Islands. It appears generally early in spring to the middle of summer in the southern parts of Japan and rarely occurs in midsummer in Hokkaido. The medusa before maturity is injurious to sea-bathers and fishermen. *D. quinquecirrha* which is widely distributed in the tropical Pacific is closely allied to this Japanese species and it seems difficult to distinguish the former from the latter in preserved state. So far as the writer is aware, however, the Japanese species has the tendency to produce 7 tentacles in each octant and further it has well-marked exumbrellar coloured patterns.

Aurelia aurita LINNÉ

The medusa is a common cosmopolitan species. On account of its massive occurrences, this medusa is making serious troubles for several thermal power stations in Japan, too.

Phacellophora camtschatica BRANDT

Three specimens are preserved in the marine station. The largest one, 210 mm in diameter, was obtained on March 29, 1960 just in front of the station. Two specimens were collected on March 22, 1962 at Shikake. This species is a representative of cold currents but is often obtained in early spring on the Pacific side of the middle Japan. *Ph. ambigua* and *Ph. ornata* seem to be the synonym of the species.

Thysanostoma thysanura HAECKEL

A large specimen is preserved in a quite good condition. The specimen, which

was collected at the fish-market on Oct. 30, 1959, is 187 mm in diameter, with oral disc 170 mm and oral arms 83 mm in length. Exumbrella slightly elevated towards the central portion from which are sent off radially many purple stripes repeatedly branched towards the peripheral region. Purple colour is retained in peripheral ephyral canals and in canals of oral arms. Between the ephyral lappets are present 8 velar lappets. In the central part of the oral disc are found numerous club-shaped and a few filamentous appendages. Gonads developed in interradii in pairs. This species is of tropical nature and is occasionally found in Japanese waters as a temporary visitor.

Stomolophus nomurai (KISHINOUE)

A damaged specimen, obtained off Mitsuishi on April 1, 1961, was examined. This species is one of the important medusae used as food in Chinese restaurants and a good deal of material made from the species are imported into Japan every year. This species seems to occur on the eastern coasts of China and is carried in large swarms by sea current towards Japan in autumn. In winter, swarms of this medusa enter the Japan Sea and then some of the medusae drifted into the Tsugaru Strait rarely reach the Pacific coasts of Japan proper in next spring. The specimen here observed is possibly one of such migrants.

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